

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, FAO, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: FAO FOLLOW-UP TO UNCTAD RESOLUTION 93(IV) ON OILSEEDS,
OILS AND FATS

REF: (A) STATE 304813 (B) ROME 20073

1. DUTIA OF FAO AND LEHTI AND COLEBROOK OF UNCTAD LED OFF
DISCUSSION IN MEETING ON FATS AND OILS (REFTEL B) BY STRESSING
INFORMAL, OFF-THE-RECORD NATURE OF MEETING. LEHTI HINTED, AND
IT BECAME MORE AND MORE CLEAR AS MEETING WENT ON, THAT NOBODY
WAS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF PRIOR JUTE AND HARD FIBER MEETINGS.
PRESENT INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNTRIES AND UNCTAD/FAO SECRETARIAT
WAS CALLED TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE NEW APPROACH TO UNCTAD AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY MEETINGS.

2. DISCUSSION RAMBLED, BUT BRAZIL, INDONESIA AND UNITED STATES ALL
HAD REMARKABLY SIMILAR POSITIONS IN THAT BASIC PAPER FOR UNCTAD
FATS AND OILS PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD ATTEMPT LESS IN THE WAY OF
DECIDING ON MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT
AND STRESS MORE THE BACKGROUND COMMODITY SITUATION AND TREND PROBLEMS
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AND THEN ONLY IF POSSIBLE OPTIONS OF MEASURES TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS.
ALSO STRESS WAS PLACED ON MORE CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARING MAIN
PAPER AS WELL AS NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO
REVIEW AND RESPOND TO UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING PAPERS.

3. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS TO MEET PROBLEMS OF FATS AND OILS, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT DISCUSSION MUST INCLUDE CAKE AS WELL AS OILS. DUTIA AND HANCOCK BOTH ARGUED STRENUOUSLY, WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT APPROVAL, ON DIFFICULTY OF ANY SORT OF SYSTEM OF STOCKS OF OIL WHEN OIL WAS FREQUENTLY ONLY A BY-PRODUCT OF PROTEIN PRODUCTION. PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE REVERTED TO CANT OF UNCTAD COMMODITY RESOLUTION 93(IV), BUT WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHERS (INDIA, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, SRI LANKA, BRAZIL, JAPAN AND UNITED STATES).

4. STRESS WAS LAID ON MARKET ACCESS AS MOST IMPORTANT WAY OF ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRY PRODUCTION. GROUP AT UNITED STATES NUDGING AGREED ON NEED TO STUDY EFFECTS OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS FACING FATS AND OILS. STRESS WAS ALSO LAID ON COMPENSATORY FINANCING AS HOPEFUL OPTION, BUT SECRETARIAT AGREED TO LOOK INTO EFFECT ON PRODUCTION.

5. UNCTAD OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING TO FILL IN OUTLINE FOR UNCTAD FATS AND OILS PREPARATORY MEETING PAPER. WITH VARIETY OF FATS AND OILS, PROBLEM WAS ENORMOUS. BY THEIR TIMETABLE THEY WOULD HOPE TO HAVE PAPER MOSTLY FINISHED BY END OF FEBRUARY 1977. FAO'S MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON FATS AND OILS MARCH 7-11 WOULD BE USEFUL TO BRING PAPER UP TO DATE. WITHOUT COMMITMENT, BOTH FAO SECRETARIAT AND UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HAVING ANOTHER INFORMAL MEETING ON UNCLEAR AND UNFINISHED DRAFT PREPARATORY MEETING PAPER ON FATS AND OILS. THEY WOULD THEN FINISH PAPER, ESPECIALLY ALTERNATE MEASURES, ON BASIS OF COUNTRIES' VIEWS EXPRESSED AT SECOND INFORMAL MEETING.

6. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED NEED FOR EVALUATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SUPPLY SITUATION PER PARAGRAPH 3(2) OF REFTTEL (B), BUT HANCOCK MADE CLEAR FAO WOULD NOT COMPLETE ITS PROJECTIONS IN TIME TO BE INCORPORATED IN EITHER UNCTAD OR FAO PAPERS OR MEETINGS.

7. COMMENT: WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DUTIA AND HANCOCK ON REAL RESULTS OF MEETINGS. LEHTI WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH DISCUSSION AND LACK OF POLEMICS, BUT NERVOUS ABOUT FAO'S ROLE AS FORUM FOR INFORMAL MEETINGS. BEAUDRY

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